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Oregon Progress Board Recognized For Innovation In Public Sector

Harvard University's Innovations in Government Program Honors Top 15 Programs As Part of Anniversary Celebration

Washington (DC)—The Institute for Government Innovation today honors the Oregon Progress Board as one of the most effective and innovative programs in the public sector. For 15 years, the Institute, part of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, has given awards to innovative programs through its *Innovations in American Government* program.

Since 1986, the Institute has received more than 24,000 applications from federal, state, local, and tribal government initiatives across the country. Since that time, it has recognized 150 programs as outstanding examples of effective innovators in the public sector. Today, the Institute honors the top 15 of those programs as part of its 15-year anniversary celebration.

The Oregon Progress Board is recognized for its innovation in the use of benchmarks as measures for the state's overall well-being. The Oregon Progress Board was created in 1989 to develop and implement the state's strategic plan, *Oregon Shines*. As part of that plan, benchmarks were created to measure and track the state's economic, social, and environmental health.

"Oregon is honored to be recognized as having one of the most innovative programs in the public sector," said Governor John Kitzhaber. "Through the Progress Board's benchmarking efforts, Oregon has consistently set its sights high by establishing goals that require concerted action on the part of all of its citizens, not just state government."

In honoring the Oregon Progress Board, Executive Director Dr. Gail Christopher, said the Institute for Government Innovation believes the Oregon Progress Board has had significant influence on public policy because, "the Oregon Benchmarks model has been replicated by other states and has informed both practice and policy debates at the federal level of government and within nonprofit and private sectors."

Many of the programs highlighted by the Institute have been replicated across the nation, served as forerunners for contemporary reform strategies, or have acted as models of state or federal legislation. The Institute highlights exemplary models of government innovation that could serve as catalysts for continued progress in addressing the nation's most pressing public concerns.

The Oregon Progress Board will be recognized in a ceremony held this evening at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C.

A PDF copy of this press release can downloaded at <http://www.das.state.or.us/DASpublications.htm>.